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# CARE HOME'S GREEN LIGHT

By Alex Wynick

**A THREE-STOREY, 60-bed care home has been given the go-ahead by Cherwell District Council planners.**

Green Pastures Christian Nursing Home has won planning permission from Cherwell District Council to build the new home on the corner of Bath Road and Park Road.

The project will combine two plots of land – the former site of a 30-bed care home from the 1970s Holly House, and a private house at 5 Park Road.

Holly House has already been demolished, but developers can now knock down the semi-detached house.

The new home will have 60 bedrooms, all with en-suite facilities, as well as garden

**Work can now get under way after reduced roof height wins approval for 60-bed home**

areas, and 22 parking spaces for staff and visitors.

It will provide accommodation for older people who are no longer able to remain in their own homes.

The facility will also create the equivalent of 22 full-time and 45 part-time jobs.

In a report to the council, a planning officer said: "The provision of a local facility will give people the choice to stay within their local community and will regenerate a site which is currently vacant and becoming run-down."

The plan for Green Pastures Christian Nursing Home had been re-submitted with changes, after concerns from residents about the height of the building.

Designers have lowered the roof line by 70cm, and have broken up the appearance of the roofline by including dormer windows on the third floor.

Planners said that "the building would look like a terrace when viewed from its principal elevations".

However, not everyone was convinced by the new plans.

One resident wrote to the council: "Yet again I wish to state my concern regarding the overall height of the building.

"The reduction in roof height makes no difference to us here on the ground looking at it.

"I would prefer to be looking at a two-storey building."

Michael Gibbard, planning chief at the council, said: "It is important when considering sites for care homes that we give consideration to both existing and potential new residents.

"For the existing residents, this approval will be bringing a redundant site back into use and restoring it to its original purpose, while for the new residents, they will be perfectly situated to access the town centre and all of the associated benefits."



● The people of Banbury turned out on Sunday to welcome the arrival of the new Army Reserves unit, which will be based in the town as part of the reorganisation of the Army. For more pictures and story, see Pages 2 and 3

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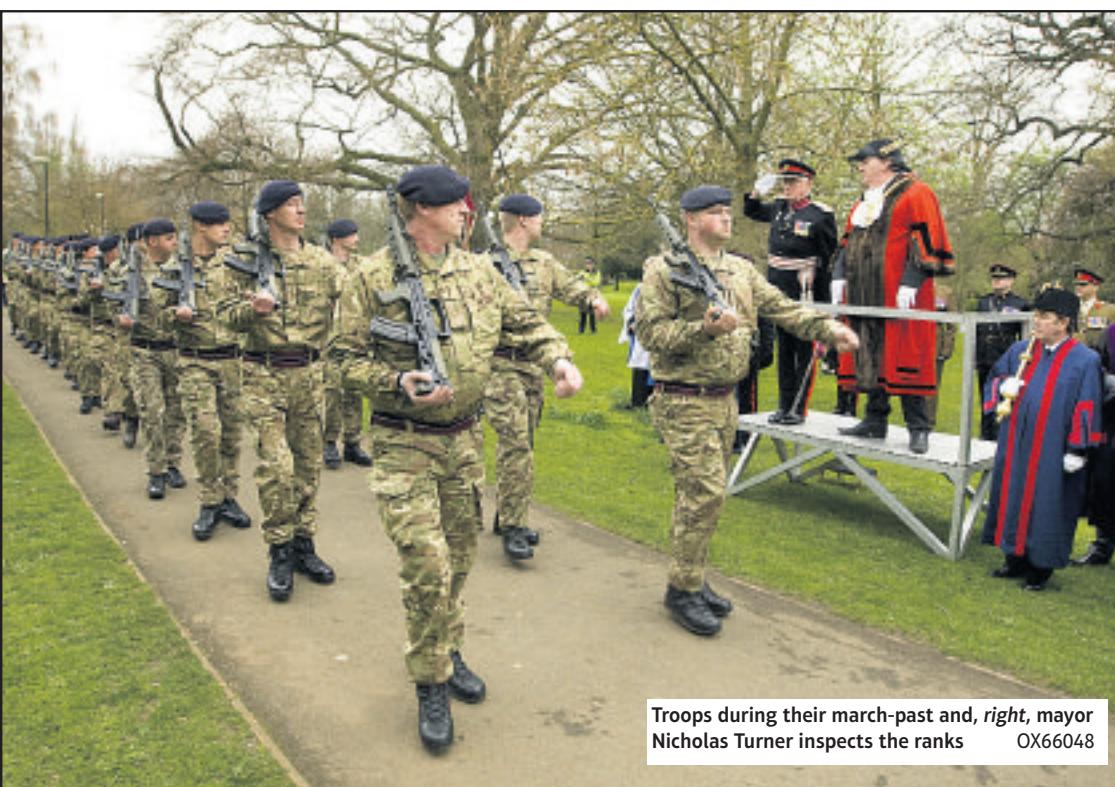


■ Banbury is chosen as base for the Army Reserves as reorganisation sees the



Colonel John Bridgeman lays a wreath at the war memorial in People's Park

# Town's salute unit's flag is



Troops during their march-past and, right, mayor Nicholas Turner inspects the ranks OX66048

RESERVE soldiers were welcomed to Banbury during a parade through the town on Sunday.

Members of the Army Reserve – which has been renamed from the former Territorial Army – have moved into the town from Lincolnshire, Warwickshire and Buckinghamshire.

The 50 part-time soldiers have joined 12 others who were already stationed at Banbury's Oxford Road base as part of a reorganisation of the Army.

The current Territorial Army Royal Signals Corps will be merged into

By Matt Oliver

the 142 Vehicle Squadron of the Royal Logistic Corps later this month.

The "Army 2020" plan will see reservists play a bigger role in a more compact Army following budget cuts.

Sunday's event began with a service of dedication at St Mary's Church before moving on to People's Park for a ceremony attended by Banbury mayor Nicholas Turner and MP Sir Tony Baldry.



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## InCOURT

■ WAYNE CADLE, 28, of Edward Street, Banbury, admitted cultivating a cannabis plant, a Class-B drug, in Banbury on September 18. Fined £75 and ordered to pay a £20 victims' surcharge and £85 costs.

■ AARON FRENCH, 23, of Howard Road, Banbury, admitted using threatening words or behaviour likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress at Master Kebab in Banbury High Street on February 2. Fined £65 and ordered to pay £85 costs and a £20 victims' surcharge.

■ MARK LATIMER, 45, of no fixed address, admitted drink-driving on Deddington Hill, near Banbury, on March 8. Had 75mg of alcohol in 100ml of breath, over the legal limit of 35mg. Fined £110, and banned from driving for 40 months. Ordered to pay a £20 victims' surcharge and £40 costs.

■ ASHLEY WRIGHT, 26, of Churchill, near Chipping Norton, admitted drink-driving on West Street, Chipping Norton, on March 8. Had 120mg of alcohol in 100ml of breath, over the legal limit of 35mg. Given an eight-week prison sentence, suspended for 18 months, and ordered to carry out 150 hours of unpaid work in the next year. Ordered to pay an £80 victims' surcharge and £85 costs. Banned from driving for three years.

■ KIERON BARNES, 22, of no fixed address, admitted breaching a restraining order in Banbury on December 24 and convicted of breaching a restraining order by attending Golden Villa Close in Banbury on December 28. Given a 14-day prison sentence, suspended for 12 months. Told to pay an £80 victims' surcharge and £200 costs.

## Marathon woman

RUNNING a marathon is hard enough, but Gill Begnor is going to try to run it while wearing a 20lb backpack.

The Hook Norton mum is attempting to set a new Guinness World Record for the feat on Sunday.

She said: "There are three categories for male marathon runners, carrying 20lb, 40lb and 80lb, but none for women."

"The record people have set me a time I have to beat – because otherwise I could just take a week and still get the record."

Mrs Begnor, 48, is trying to run the course in five-and-a-half hours, with sandbags weighing down her backpack.

This is not her first London marathon – nor her first world record.

She said: "I've done three marathons before, and two while wearing a heavy 'beer bottle' costume to honour Hook Norton Brewery."

"I was the fastest women to run a marathon in a bottle costume for a year, but then they started making

lighter costumes and I couldn't keep up."

However, she admits that this challenge may be her last: "I don't think I'll do another marathon after this, but I may do other challenges."

"My training has been up and down, 20lb is very heavy."

Her partner, Mike Dobson, and her two daughters, Lucy, 15, and 17-year-old Emma, have been urging her on with her training.

She said: "I hadn't really understood how much of a difference it would make. I think I will get round the course – but I may be crossing the line on all fours."

Mrs Begnor, a software programme manager, said that the motivation to take on new records was to raise more money.

"When you've done a few of them, you feel bad asking people to keep sponsoring you for the same thing, so you have to find something a bit different to do to challenge yourself more."

"It makes it better for fundraising if you're doing something a bit different."

# demise of the Territorials as new raised

The parade then marched along Horsefair and High Street, before finishing in Broad Street, ending at the town hall.

There, the Royal Corps of Signals flag was lowered for the last time, replaced by the flag of the Royal Logistic Corps.

The column of troops were led by Banbury's 1460 Squadron Air Training Corps, under Flight Lieutenant Karl Kisley.

Banbury Town Council leader Kieron Mallon said: "Banbury has a proud military history and the Territorial Army has been a prominent part of local life for many years.

"While many military bases are being closed, it is a tribute that Banbury has been chosen for such a high-profile role in the reorganisation of the Army's reserve forces."



ABOVE: The parade in Banbury culminates with Pte Matthew Watson raising the Royal Logistic Corps Flag

LEFT: The 1460 Squadron ATC band leads the parade into People's Park, Banbury

## in bid for new record

She is aiming to raise £2,000 for Cancer Research UK, and currently has just over £550, but is hopeful that she can make the rest up this week.

She said: "There's usually a big push just before and after the race. I've done quite a lot of fundraising for Cancer Research UK, because everyone knows someone who has been affected by cancer."

"Many of my close friends have been affected by cancer, including two of my best friends who lost parents to the disease over the last few years."

"Struggling around the marathon is nothing compared to what so many people have to endure. I'll have five-and-a-half hours of misery, but they have months, or years."

Mrs Begnor has also volunteered for Rays of Sunshine, a charity that fulfils last wishes of terminally-ill children.

She said: "Three of the children I've done wishes for have died. I plan to keep running for as long as I can to help find a cure."

To donate, visit [justgiving.com/4thMidLifeCrisis](http://justgiving.com/4thMidLifeCrisis)



Record bid: Gill Begnor

## Court told how man's ear was bitten off

A 20-YEAR-OLD had half his ear bitten off during a punch-up on a Banbury nightclub dance floor, a jury heard on Monday.

Gary Maguire, of Clifford Road, Blackpool, is on trial, accused of wounding with intent after a fight in the town's Sound Exchange nightclub on March 3 last year.

Jonathan Stone, prosecuting, said the 40-year-old attacked Ryan Knight during an argument between two groups over a friend of Maguire who was allegedly pushing people.

He said this led to a "tussle" on the dance floor. A witness told police that she saw Maguire punching Mr Knight in the side of the face as the younger man lay on the ground.

Mr Stone said: "Also the defendant had his head to the side of Mr Knight's head and the two heads were there for about 30 seconds or so."

He added that this was enough time for him to inflict a "rather nasty injury" which required his alleged victim to undergo plastic surgery to his ear.

Maguire denies the charge and was released on bail.

The trial continues.

## InBRIEF

### Club's invitation to bowls novices

A NEW season of bowls for beginners is beginning at Banbury Central Bowling Club. From Tuesday, anyone can go along to the Sports Ground, on Horton View, to learn about the sport. The weekly outdoor sessions run from 2pm, and cost £3. For more information contact Gordon Gerry on 01295 255972.

### School decisions

PARENTS will find out next week whether or not their children have got into their first choice of primary school. They had to apply for a place by January 15 for the start of the school year in September. Parents are due to find out if they were successful on Wednesday. Last month, 90.8 per cent of pupils gained their first choice of secondary school. Oxfordshire County Council said it had to deal with 337 more applications for secondary places in September than it did in 2013.

### Prizes for poems

BUDGING poets in Oxfordshire have been encouraged to enter this year's John Betjeman Poetry Competition for Young People. Children aged ten to 13 can enter the annual contest, which honours the former Oxfordshire poet laureate. The first prize is a £1,000 – £500 to the winner and £500 to the English department of their school – and the two runners-up each receive £100. Enter online at [betjemanpoetrycompetition.com](http://betjemanpoetrycompetition.com)

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# Setting out his aims as the Queen's representative

# Sheriff who wears a charitable badge

HIS job may be by Royal appointment, but today's High Sheriff of Oxfordshire doesn't keep law and order or collect taxes.

But the role – helping to represent the Queen – does involve raising money and lending credibility to good local causes.

He or she is invited to civic dinners and major military events, hands out trophies and cuts ribbons, so organisations can then say the High Sheriff has endorsed their event.

But they also have a more proactive role.

Each sheriff chooses a theme for their year of office, and tries to leave a legacy behind them that will run on long after they have gone.

The next High Sheriff is Tony Stratton, former chief of international marketing firm CPM, non-executive director of several other companies and board member of cultural charity Oxford Inspires.

His grand dream for his year in the post, which starts this month, is to set up a coterie of county businesses which will act as a union for funding local charities and community groups in perpetuity.

Mr Stratton said: "If I phone someone up and say 'It's Tony, I want to talk about an issue' you might say 'that's interesting', but if I say 'This is the High Sheriff', your ears prick up.

"You do an awful lot of turning up, but by turning up, the role can grace an occasion.

"It adds glamour, heritage and a traditional consistency to

In the age of cyber crime and crowd-sourcing, can a frilly costume and a letter from the Queen really change lives for the better? **Pete Hughes** reports on the role of the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire

events. It is no good just shaking the tin at businesses, you have to be able to deliver something."

He has already set the wheels in motion for his Business Cares initiative by creating The Sheriff's

Challenge. Mr Stratton has invited 20 businesses to take part in three fundraising events – a sports day at Iffley Road Sports Ground in Oxford, a choral afternoon at Blenheim Palace, Woodstock,

and a business lecture at the Said Business School.

He hopes to raise £100,000 just from firms attending each of the events, to go to his chosen charities – Oxfordshire Community Foundation, Music for Autism and Access Sport.

But in the long term he hopes that bringing businesses together will fuel interest in his vision for the Business Cares initiative.

He said: "I wanted to find a different source of support, so the business community seemed sensible.

"While the economy is recovering we all know the county council is having to reduce the money it spends on non-statutory activities, charity or voluntary.

"I thought if I can get 20 or so businesses to make a decent contribution, we could get things done that otherwise wouldn't happen."

The role, which is unpaid and entirely voluntary, also requires the incumbent to host a High Court judge who visits Oxford to judge particularly difficult cases.

He will also host the High Sheriff's Awards, which this year were held in Oxford in March.

Mr Stratton said: "If there was no High Sheriff in Oxfordshire, the world wouldn't stop turning but there would be a vacuum.

"Something would be created to fill that vacuum, and it would probably be a Government-created position.

"Having a non-political role, just focused on supporting and encouraging good causes, seems like a better way to do that."



Oxfordshire's new High Sheriff Tony Stratton

## An historic office

● **THE Office of High Sheriff is a non-political Royal appointment for a single year.**

**It is the oldest secular office in the country – outside the monarchy.**

**The origins of the office date back to Saxon times, when the Shire Reeve, from which we get our word sheriff, was responsible to the king for the maintenance of law and order within the shire, or county, and for the collection and return of taxes due to the crown.**

**Today, there are 55 High Sheriffs serving the counties of England and Wales each year.**

**The former, very extensive powers which the office once enjoyed have gone and the role now involves a mix of ceremonial, charitable and community functions of which supporting the crown and the judiciary remain central elements.**

**Many High Sheriffs also assist community foundations and charities working with vulnerable and other people both in endorsing and helping to raise the profile of their work.**

**High Sheriffs are voluntary and unfunded, with no part of the expense of a High Sheriff's year falling on the public purse.**



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■ Sorting office worker turned to crime after falling into debt

# Prison for postman who stole from a blind man

A POSTMAN, who stole bank cards from letters and left a blind man feeling "sick" after emptying his accounts, has been jailed.

Damon Alvey, of Friday Court, Thame, helped himself to post between June and October last year after he was moved by Royal Mail from Oxford to its Banbury sorting office.

The 45-year-old used his job to search for letters containing bank cards and PIN numbers, which he used to withdraw at least £4,033 from two customers' accounts.

He has now pleaded guilty to one count of theft and four counts of fraud by false representation.

Timothy Boswell, prosecuting at Oxford Crown Court, said Alvey had also taken letters belonging to 15 other people. Police found the remains of more post that had been shredded when they searched his home.

By Joe Nimmo

Mr Boswell said one of his victims was Darren Blythe, 34, of Bretch Hill, Banbury, who is registered blind and received around £400 a month from the local authority.

Speaking after the hearing, he said when he realised all the council money had been stolen, plus about £2,700 from another account, he was left feeling sick.

He said: "Without that money I could not afford to do anything."

"I wish he had got a longer sentence."

Timothy Greaves, defending, said his client had been a postman for three-and-a-half years but turned to crime after he got into £25,000 of debt and started drinking heavily.

Judge Ian Pringle sentenced Alvey to ten months in prison and ordered him to pay a £100 victims' surcharge.



Jailed:  
postman  
Damon  
Alvey

## Dance date for hospice

A HOSPICE has launched its first Zumbathon and is encouraging fundraisers to get involved.

Money raised from the event – on Saturday, April 26, in the sports hall at Blessed George Napier School in Banbury – will raise cash for Katharine House Hospice, in Adderbury.

Six instructors are donating their time to lead the fundraiser.

Nicky Hanson, Katharine House Zumbathon co-ordinator said: "It will be a lovely community event and so much fun for everyone taking part."

Registration is £10 and participants are asked to raise £25 in sponsorship.

Visit [khh.org.uk/zumbathon-2014-april](http://khh.org.uk/zumbathon-2014-april) or call 01295 812161.

## Heads to debate 'pupils and the Pill'



Hilary Hibbert-Biles

HEADTEACHERS and governors will be left to decide if Oxfordshire's new school nurses can hand out morning-after pills in advance.

Last week the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (Nice) recommended that emergency contraception should be provided free and in advance to girls up to the age of 25 in case they need it.

In the proposals, Nice said nurses, including school nurses and pharmacists, should be able to offer free emergency contraceptive pills as part of a push to reduce teenage pregnancy rates in England.

Every secondary school in Oxfordshire is to have its own permanent school nurse based on site under a £1.55m scheme unveiled by Oxfordshire County Council.

Hilary Hibbert-Biles, the council's public health chief, said: "Providing the

morning-after pill in advance will be something that the nurses discuss with the headteachers and governors about what that school wants."

And Oxfordshire County Council spokesman said: "School nurses – as qualified health professionals – will be in a position to provide sexual health advice, make appropriate referrals, and, where supported by the policy of individual schools, to supply emergency contraception on the basis of individual assessments and national guidelines."

Professor Mike Kelly, director of the centre for public health at Nice, said: "It is really important that sexual health services, offering information and advice, can be found in places where young people have access to them."

"Evidence clearly shows that the availability of contraception reduces the rate of unwanted pregnancies."

## InBRIEF

### Civic clean-up nets 15 tonnes

■ OVER 15 tonnes of rubbish were cleared from a Banbury estate during a spring clean. Collecting litter by hand and with a road sweeper, six members of Cherwell District Council's street cleaning team spent 100 hours over five days cleaning the streets of Hardwick. Nigel Morris, the council's clean and green chief, said: "To have removed 15 tonnes of rubbish in just five days is a great feat but also demonstrates how dropping a few items of rubbish here and there can soon add up. We would encourage everyone to do their bit and put all rubbish in a bin to keep the area clean and tidy."

### Plea over bees

■ THE Green Party has called on Oxfordshire County Council to adopt more bee-friendly policies. The group has said colonies should be established in council-owned parks, with more pollinator flowers planted to encourage them. Green campaigner Dr Hazel Dawe said: "The county council could also visit schools to educate children about the relationship between bees and biodiversity." It follows the Oxfordshire Bee Summit, which took place at the beginning of February and saw experts from all over the county gather. They discussed ways to tackle bee population decline and pledged to set up a "pollinator advisory group".

### Firearms facts

■ FIREARMS are being authorised in more police operations than they were ten years ago. The latest Home Office figures show Thames Valley Police officers were authorised to be issued firearms in 295 operations between March 2012 and April last year – compared to 195 in 2003/04. National figures show firearms were authorised 10,996 times last financial year but were only discharged three times.



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■ Headteacher: School shocked and saddened by the news

# Father in tribute to car-park plunge boy

THE father of a 14-year-old boy who died after falling from a Banbury multi-storey car park has said the family would cherish his memory.

Thomas Boomer, who was from Bloxham, fell from the five-storey Bolton Road car park at about 1am on Monday of last week, but died of his injuries at Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital later that afternoon.

His father, Doug, said: "We are struggling to come to terms with and understand Tom's death.

"He was a bright star, with the potential to shine in whatever path he chose in life."

He added: "Our wonderful memories of Tom, together with the love and support of our friends in Bloxham and wider family, will sustain us in both the coming weeks and months.

"We appreciate the many messages of love from his friends who must be suffering greatly too.

"We will cherish memories of the 14 years we were privileged to spend with Tom."

Police were this week continuing their investigation into Tom's death on behalf of the Oxfordshire coroner. At present the incident is being treated as unexplained but

By Ben Wilkinson

not suspicious. The teenager, of Queen Street, was a drummer and also leaves behind his mother, Clare, and his sister, Kirstin.

In the family statement Mr Boomer added: "To his sister he was a constant friend, always happy to improvise a tune for her to sing along to.

"Tom's love of music made him many friends and the house often rang to the sounds of band practice.

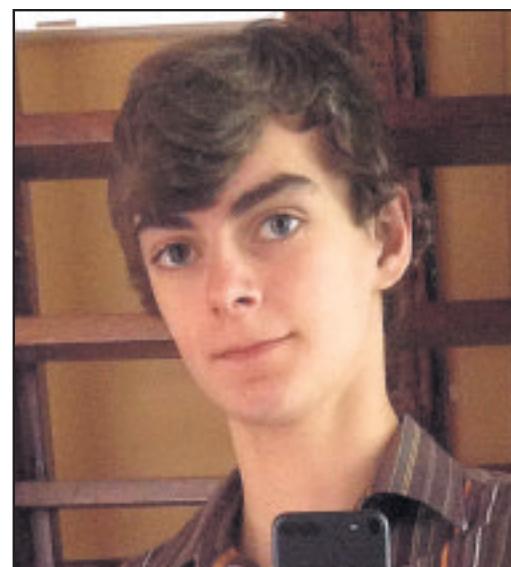
"His more recent love of canoeing was a great outlet for his energy and the club provided a strong network."

The teen had recently moved to Chipping Norton School from The Warriner School in nearby Bloxham.

Simon Duffy, headteacher at Chipping Norton School, said: "Tom was a polite, smart and talented student.

"He enjoyed music, was passionate about rugby and had a good future ahead of him.

"Our whole school community is shocked and saddened by the news and our thoughts are with his family."



Thomas Boomer

## Jobs threat as marking centre faces closure

A NATIONAL apprenticeship scheme is closing down its administration unit in Banbury, putting five jobs at risk.

Vision Workforce Skills currently runs ten training centres across the country, helping young people get apprenticeships in construction, IT, media and customer service. Work from those students is then sent to markers in Banbury, who grade the work and return it to the centres.

In an attempt to cut costs and turn a profit, VWS is closing four of its six training centres, as well as the Banbury administration office. Marking will now take place at the centres themselves.

Four markers and a cleaner are at risk of redundancy.

The company's MD, Graham Howe, said: "Unfortunately, certain aspects of the business are not doing as well as anticipated."

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## New signs to offer a safer walk to school

CHILDREN in Banbury will have a safer walk to school thanks to new road warning signs, a local councillor said.

Electronic signs will be installed on Queensway, which is a "main thoroughfare" for local schoolchildren, according to Kieron Mallon.

The busy road has two lanes separated by a grass island.

As well as Queensway Primary School, there are other schools nearby, including the Harriers Ground Community Primary School and Frank Wise School.

Mr Mallon said: "It's the main route for children attending the schools. There are hundreds of kids every day going up and down there."

A road safety review was initially requested from Queensway School's headteacher, Sarah Jakeman, in December 2013.

Mr Mallon said: "We made a concerted effort to see if anything could be done to make road users more aware of children coming out of the side entrances."

The duo had talks with road safety and highways officers.

The result is that from September, two electronic signs will be installed, signalling a part-time advisory 20 mph limit. The signs will only flash during opening and closing times of the school day.

The signs will be funded from developer contributions, which are held in a pot by the county council.

Mr Mallon said: "We're hopeful that this will raise awareness of potential problems before they arise."

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury & Abingdon areas and Trevor is finding that his approach is a major factor

in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show

how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Trevor a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!



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**InBRIEF****Date set for mayor's day**

■ THE annual Banbury Mayor's Sunday – featuring hobby-horse races, competitions and a procession into People's Park, will take place in July. This year's event will be opened by the mayor at 1pm on Sunday, July 6, and will feature performances from school children, a fun fair and trade stalls. Deputy mayor Sean Woodcock said: "I would like this year's procession to be a colourful montage of what Banbury has to offer in the way of social opportunities, charitable causes and other ventures."

**Householder escapes fire**

■ A SHUTFORD resident awoke to find his living room on fire early on Sunday morning. Firefighters were called to the home in West Street after the resident was awoken at 3am and managed to get out of the property. No-one was injured. Fire chief John Campbell said: "The occupier was very lucky to be woken in time."

**Nature watch**

■ THE Canal & River Trust is urging people to take part in this year's Great Nature Watch. Organisers have warned that this year's wet winter could have decimated the region's dragonfly and damselfly populations. A spokesman said: "While this year's floods have had an obvious impact on larger animals, birds and fish, we are also particularly concerned with the impact on invertebrates, which are the foundation stone of a healthy water environment." Sightings can be recorded online at [canalrivertrust.org.uk/great-nature-watch](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/great-nature-watch)

■ Man, 21, gets community order

# Teen grooming guilty verdict

By Sophie Scott

A MAN asked a teenage girl he groomed over Facebook to change out of her school uniform into "something sexy" before he met her.

Luke Southam, 21, kissed the 13-year-old girl, who cannot be identified, when they first saw each other at Banbury railway station.

In a victim statement, Judge Tom Corrie said the young girl had thought Southam was in love with her and had been emotionally scarred by the incident.

On Friday, Southam was given a community order at Oxford Crown Court.

A jury unanimously found Southam, of Cornish Road, Chipping Norton, guilty of meeting up with a girl following sexual grooming in February.

The court heard that he had contacted the girl via Facebook in March last year, and despite knowing she was 13, met up with her.

She told him she would be in her school clothes, but he told her to bring a change of clothes and to "wear something sexy".

In mitigation, Terence Woods said: "His mental age is not that far apart from the young girl he was in contact with. That may well explain in part this whole incident."

Judge Corrie said: "Your IQ has been measured as relatively low and you may not have appreciated the danger you posed and the effect on the girl of that age, who thought herself in love. It has caused her significant distress, from which she is still suffering."

"I hope you now understand you were, in effect, playing with the emotions of somebody who was too young to cope with it."

Southam was given an 18-month community order, with an education requirement, a Sexual Offences Prevention Order, which stops him from coming into contact with anyone under the age of 16 for five years, and must be on the Sex Offenders' Register for five years.



Luke Southam



## Designed to inspire

THE artist Tim Ward has been commissioned to create a public sculpture outside Banbury and Bicester College.

The sculpture, pictured above, is made up of three arcs, topped with coloured lighting in the shape of a star.

The design also forms a raised platform, which organisers say will be used for fashion shows, art exhibitions and as a base for video displays.

Designs have been announced for the sculpture, which will be placed outside the college's £6m media, motor vehicle and creative arts centre on the Broughton Road.

The sculpture is set to be

installed this summer.

The principal of Banbury and Bicester College, Rose Turner, said: "The public art will help to bring together our new facilities and offer a focal point, which will also serve as a functional space to showcase our students' work."

"Just as the artwork has been shaped and inspired by our existing staff and students, it will also serve to inspire future generations, encouraging them to expand their horizons and stretch their skills to achieve success. This has been an excellent learning project for our students and I look forward to seeing the artwork in place when it is installed later this year."

## School heads to debate extra funding pledge

THE amount of extra funding for schools will be discussed by governors and headteachers across Oxfordshire later this month.

It follows the announcement that the county will receive an extra £500,000 for 2015/16.

It is under new plans unveiled by Schools Minister David Laws for a £350m boost for UK schools.

Oxfordshire County Council was one of the 62 local authorities to benefit from the change and the increase is just 0.1 per cent.

But some areas will see a boost of up to £20m if the plans are

approved. Now, the county's schools' forum will hold an "extraordinary meeting" to discuss its response to the plans.

The forum represents governors and headteachers across the county.

The Department for Education has launched a consultation into its "fairer school funding" plans.

County council education chief Melinda Tilley said: "The Government is consulting all the councils on its proposals and we are seeking further information before responding."

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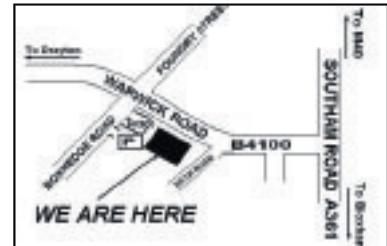
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# Boost for mechanics

BANBURY and Bicester College have received two new Hyundai cars for the college's £2m motor vehicle centre.

The motor vehicle students, who study at the college's motor vehicle centre in Broughton Road, Banbury, were donated a Hyundai i40 and i10, worth £25,000.

Students will be working on the engines to learn about faults and carrying out repairs on the cars.

This work is part of the students' Level 1 or Level 2 Diploma in Vehicle Maintenance.

Some students are also undertaking a Level 2 or Level 3 apprenticeship in Motor Vehicle Maintenance and Repair.

Principal Rose Turner said: "By working in partnership with employers, such as Hyundai, we can ensure that students also have access to the latest vehicles and equipment so that they can develop the exact skills which employers are looking for."

The college's vehicle centre was opened last October and offers students the chance to learn about vehicle safety checks and MoTs.



Rose Turner, principal of Banbury and Bicester College receives the keys to the new cars from Mark Lucas, technical warranty engineer at Hyundai UK

# Planning veto fails

By Alex Wynick

RESIDENTS will see up to 60 new homes built in Bloxham after a government planning inspector approved the scheme – despite objections from the Cherwell District Council.

Miller Strategic Land has been given permission to build the properties on land off Tadmarton Road in the village,

## ■ Inspector overturns council planners to allow 60 new homes to be built in village

along with community parkland and additional parking for Bloxham Church of England Primary School.

This is the third time the planning inspectors have upheld appeals from developers for new housing in Bloxham.

Last year, 75 homes off Barford Road and 85 homes off Milton Road were approved, despite the council's decision to reject planning permission.

Inspectors say that Cherwell District Council does not have a good enough five-year housing supply.

Michael Gibbard, the council's planning chief, said: "It is incredibly disappointing for both us and the residents of Bloxham to have our opinions repeatedly disregarded."

While none of the council's plans included developing the Tadmarton

Road site, Mr Gibbard said that inspectors did not take into consideration the council's plans to build more homes.

He said: "What is especially frustrating is that the five-year housing supply only gives weight to those homes which have already been built.

"That means no matter how many houses we approve, they will not be counted until they are finished – something which is in the hands of the developers."

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# Lee is back on the road

**L**ee Hurst is back and he's seriously hacked off. Which is just as well, given that his new tour is entitled *Things That Make You Go Aaargh!!!* and aims to discuss the stuff about this modern world that gets right on both his, and the audience's, goat.

So, among the things that irritate him are political correctness (in his eyes, it certainly has gone mad), and the fact that the various ailments he's suffered and medical procedures he's undergone in the last decade or so have slowed him down so that "I run like an old man now".

And trying hard not to sound like the archetypal grumpy old man (he's not long into his 50s, after all), Hurst is aghast at the way technology appears to have dominated an entire generation's way of being.

"I don't have a mobile anymore, but I have a laptop at home. I use it as a news feed. I feel like I'm in a zombie film, where I'm the last person alive who doesn't have a mobile."

"When I got rid of my mobile, my friends went mental. They said: 'How can

By Arts Writer

we contact you?' 'Well, I have a landline.' 'But what if you're not in?' 'Then you can leave me a message.'

"And they went into more and more ridiculous scenarios to try to convince me that I should have a mobile."

Hurst does admit to being on Twitter and Facebook, where he will put up jokes and have the occasional spleen-vent about the news. But he's having nothing to do with any Internet trolls.

"I make a point of blocking anyone who slags me off or who disagrees with me about an issue. But it cracks me up to hear about people being bullied online: just block! I have no sympathy for them."

"If you are being bullied on the street for real, you can't move. Online, you can just block them and if they set up a new account,

just block that. Simple. If only real life was like that, it would be brilliant."

Having spent much of the 21st century occupied with matters other than touring (he runs the Bethnal Green-based Backyard Comedy Club which reopened last year after a substantial redevelopment), Hurst is now on his third show in succession after *Man V Woman* in 2011, *Too Scared To Leave The House* the following year and now *Things That Make You Go Aaargh!!!*.

For this trilogy, he has settled on a format that keeps him excited to take a show on the road for several months by warming up his crowd in the opening half with some scripted stand-up before launching into a second half where literally anything can happen as he opens up his theme to the floor.

"What I learned from the last couple of tours was that by having the second half based around improv, I sustain myself much better throughout the whole run. This is a guess, but I think I'm slightly unique in that I worry less about the unknown than I do about the known."

"The second half is out of my hands, so why worry about it? I wouldn't even try to call myself

an eternal optimist, but I just trust it will all be OK."

And as with many of life's finest plans, this one worked itself out completely by accident after Hurst lost all his notes about his *Man V Woman* show, possibly on a bus.

"I had stuff in my head but not enough to sustain it for a whole second half, so I changed it to get the men in the audience writing something down about women and vice versa."

"I won't say it was a stroke of genius, it was a necessity, but it was so much fun and it continued to work well on the next show."

Has Hurst a clear idea of where he exists in the British comedy firmament?

"Profile-wise, I'm incredibly low.

"Skill-set wise, I'm right up there at the top. What a diva!"

"But then it's for other people to prove me wrong."

● Lee Hurst is appearing at the Mill Arts Centre, Banbury, on Sunday. For tickets, call the box office on 01295 279002 or click on [themillartscentre.co.uk](http://themillartscentre.co.uk)



Comic Lee Hurst, who is appearing at The Mill Arts Centre, Banbury, on Sunday

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**STRIKE FAST** Bubbly, blonde, blue-eyed Devizes woman, 43, 5'6", enjoys listening to music, country walks and more, searching for a nice and genuine guy, to share caring times and the future. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 152533 or send a text to 80360

**GENUINE PARTNER WANTED** Sincere, loyal, Christian Banbury female, 45, searching for a loving, kind-hearted and honest man, for friendship initially and hopefully a romantic relationship in the future. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 161075 or send a text to 80360

**WALK IN THE PARK** Sensitive, friendly and selfless Abingdon-On-Thames female, 46, searching for a spirited, warm man, for friendship and a fresh start in life. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 159088 or send a text to 80360

**SPARKS FLYING** Fun, curly, green-eyed Wiltshire blonde, 46, looking for genuine, loving guy, to share some caring times and future happiness. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 852093 or send a text to 80360

**QUALITY TIMES** Sunny, loving, divorced, loyal Swindon girl, 47, 5'3", average-build, likes restaurants, walks, travelling, looking to find a tactful, endearing male, for love and an honest future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138116

**OF A GENUINE DESCRIPTION** Laid-back Swindon female, 47, still looking for my Mr Right, to share and enjoy life. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 162612

**DINE WITH ME** Sincere, sociable Devizes lady, 48, non-smoker, I like country walks, pets, cosy evenings and more. I would like to meet a male who enjoys wine and dining for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 162460 or send a text to 80360

**IT COULD BE US** Spiritual, genuine Didcot woman, 48, attractive, fun, have grown up children, likes clubs, cafes, music, films, walking and reading, seeking a caring and optimistic man, for friendship first. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123828 and send a text to 80360

**BIKERS! BIKERS! BIKERS!** Attractive, blonde biker babe, 51, 5'8", would like to meet a similar minded man for fun and possible relationship. Enjoys dancing, evenings out and trips away, are you my Valentine Rossi? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 168207 and send a text to 80360

**ASK ME OUT!** Caring, fit, 52 year old Chipping Norton female, 5'7", slim build, blue eyes, blonde, GSOH, enjoys swimming & dog walking. WLTM a caring, loving male for hopefully a relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 164129 or send a text to 80360

**START LIVING AGAIN** Friendly, fun Oxfordshire divorced mum, 52, 5'7", grown up children, looking for love again and someone to share life with. Is the right man out there for me? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 798804

**EASY TO GET ON WITH** Caring, loving, 52 year old Oxford female, 5'7", slim, brown hair, blue eyes, enjoys swimming, dog walking, GSOH, enjoys for a really caring guy, to build a relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 165506 or send a text to 80360

**EASY TO LOVE** Easy-going, decent, sincere, 53 year old Swindon female, 5'7", average build, long hair, love music and pets. Would like to meet someone to share happy times with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 167521 or send a text to 80360

**HOPE TO MEET YOU SOON** Friendly, 54 year old Chipping Norton female, dog owner, enjoy cooking, walking and days in out, would like to meet a great guy, for friendship first and see what happens. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 167670 or send a text to 80360

**LADY SEEKS GENT** Outgoing, friendly, fit Bradford-On-Avon lady, 55, likes walking, walks, travel, seeking a similar male, for company and companionship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100451

**I'LL TREAT YOU RIGHT** Sincere Swindon woman, 55, GSOH, fun personality, loves nights out, socialising and music, seeks a friendly bloke, to share lots of good times and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104377 or send a text to 80360

**LOVE IS FOR SHARING** Easygoing, sincere Trowbridge lady, 61, med build, 5'6", GSOH, N/S, enjoys good social life, darts, music, walking & reading, searching for that special guy, N/S and caring for dates & more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 116161

**THE LONG TERM** Separated, easygoing Oxon female, 62, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 120544

**LISTEN TO YOUR HEART** Happy go lucky Warminster female, 63, looking for a nice kind and reliable man to share good times together and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134837

**CARING & CONSIDERATE** Kind-hearted, active Oxford man, 37, enjoys staying fit, playing sports and fine dining with friends and family, would like to meet a similar female, for companionship and love. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 147290 or send a text to 80360

**TIME TO SHARE** Lively Oxford male, 40, 5'10", med build, enjoys motorbikes, clubs, cinema, meals and more, searching for a loving woman, to share friendship and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 157276 or send a text to 80360

**MUCH MUCH MORE** Bright, upbeat and happy Oxfordshire man, 41, with personality, would like to date with a bubbly, tender, warm-hearted girl, to share the good times and great company. Could you be the one for me? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117999 or send a text to 80360

**PERFECT HARMONY** Fun-loving, easygoing and tactile Witney biker, 42, fit, stocky build, shaven head and goatee, would like to meet a nice, bright lady, for fun times and see where that leads to. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 108035

**A LUCKY STRIKE** Rational, positive and expressive Didcot man, 46, would like to find a funny, helpful female, for a special and lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 161546

**DON'T BE SHY, GIVE ME A TRY!** Charming, happy, Abingdon male, 47, 6', enjoys pubs, clubs and nights out, but just as happy with a walk in the countryside and a night in the fire with the right person. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 164128 or send a text to 80360

**COME CLOSER** Active, kind-hearted and upbeat Oxford blonde, 47, 6'3", looking to find an insightful, liberal woman, for fun and maybe a little romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 130080

**LOOK TO THE FUTURE** Jovial, innovative and self-reliant Reading agent, 47, wants to meet a woman, to have fun and who knows. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 157382 or send a text to 80360

**YOUNG AT HEART?** Genuine, honest, self-employed Oxford male, 47, 5'9", own home and car, likes the seaside and country walks, would like to meet a youthful, slim lady, age 55-65, to share a happy future with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 111959

**COME ALIVE** Sociable, adventurous and interesting Bampton male, 59, 6'3", brown hair, average build, seeking an adaptable, self-confident lady, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140502 or send a text to 80360

**SEE FOR YOURSELF** Youthful, faithful, liberal and sympathetic Middlesbrough man, 73, looking for a sweet, sensitive woman, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 453567 or send a text to 80360

**LET'S EXPLORE** Abingdon male, 70, 5'9", medium build, easygoing and affectionate, looking for someone similar, to share fun and good times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 141502 or send a text to 80360

**LET'S FIND EACH OTHER** Down-to-earth, loving, black Wolverhampton female, 58, 5'4", seeking a nice man, with GSOH, to enjoy each others interests, travel together and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 148802 or send a text to 80360

**SEEKING THE RIGHT MAN** Separated, attractive Witney female, 62, 5'2", curvy, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128289 or send a text to 80360

**HONEST COMPANY SOUGHT** Kind, caring Oxford female, 79, likes country drive, pub lunches, fishing seeking a tall man, with a good sense of humour, to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 143388

**LOVE THE ONE YOU'RE WITH** Friendly, warm-hearted Abingdon male, 52, good sense of humour, would like to meet a caring, well-matured girl, to enjoy good times together. Is you're looking for true love then get in touch. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115894

**TIME FOR A CHANGE** Friendly, expressive and vibrant Kidlington male, 52, with plenty of interests in his life, would like to date a life-loving, intelligent lady, to share love, laughter and the future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 114479

**FUN AND LAUGHTER** Honest, sensitive and decent Oxford female, 34, 53, interests are walking, countryside, coastal walks, animals, eating out, cosy nights in, F1, cooking, DIY, history, architecture, looking for a LTR. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101122 or send a text to 80360

**KEEPING WITH THE TIMES** Happy go lucky, blue-eyed Banbury male, 60, 5'6", slim build, likes gardening, cinema, meals out, travel, country side and 60s music, seeks genuine lady, for friendship maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 156014 or send a text to 80360

**PASSION FLOWER** Youthful, friendly Oxford chap, 60, 5'9", dark hair, enjoys cinema, bowling, active days out and socialising, searching for a loving, happy and loyal woman, to build a lasting relationship with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100937

**SAIL AWAY** Sociable, bubbly and happy Bicester female, 42, seeking a chatty, optimistic female, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 147448 or send a text to 80360

**HOPES THIS WORKS** Cuddly Swindon lady, 48, easygoing and fun to be, looking for friendship leading to more with a nice, friendly, bubbly woman. Where are you? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 851817 and send a text to 80360

**SCRUBS UP WELL!** Optimistic, positive, 62 Witney male. I'm active with a good sense of humour. Having diverse interests and still scrubbing up well, seeking an attractive lady who is also active and enjoys life. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126741 or send a text to 80360

**SO GOOD TOGETHER** Genuine, easygoing, happy Abingdon male, 63, own home/car, enjoys dancing, days out and walking the dog, searching for a genuine lady, with an attractive and happy nature. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 166651 or send a text to 80360

**LOVING LIFE** Loyal, solvent North Oxfordshire gent, 67, 5'9", loves soul and motown music, coffee and quiet pubs, seeking a nice guy, for friendship and hopefully more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104998

**SHOW YOUR COLOURS** Honest, old fashioned, non-scene Oxford male, 57, fit, clean living, not into pubs, clubs or crowds, seeking a mature male, for friendship, days out, holiday and fun times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 856503

**MAKE A CONNECTION** Interesting, friendly Oxford male, 65, varied interests, loves walks, reading, travel and more, sees sensitive male, similar age, for a loving relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 158762

**THAT'S ALL FOR NOW...** Easygoing friend Didcot male, 67, enjoys walks, home and car, with a love of cinema, travel and new adventure, seeks a nice, loyal, feminine lady, for companionship then who knows? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132140

**OPEN UP YOUR HEART** Cheerful, slim Banbury male, 70, 5'6", GSOH, likes sports, walks, animals and cosy evenings in, searching for a decent, positive lady, to settle down with and share a happy future. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104901 or send a text to 80360

**SHARING GOOD TIMES** Upbeat Burford widower, 59, own cars, works full time, likes days in and out, countryside walks, driving, looking for a similar woman for companionship then who knows? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117916 or send a text to 80360

**WALK OF LIFE** Self-assured, strong-minded and motivated Bampton girl, 72, just looking to meet a friendly, trustworthy male, for a special and lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 146399

**HOPES SPRINGS ETERNAL** Kind, caring, down-to-earth Thame male, 47, enjoys music, country walks, cooking, reading, films, seeking a kind, sincere, slim female, 25+. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137427

**READY FOR A NEW START** Down-to-earth, responsive and energetic Wantage guy, 50, just looking to meet a stable, consistent girl, 30-55, for fun and maybe a little romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 162727 or send a text to 80360

**COMPLETE THE PICTURE** Attractive, honest Swindon female, 75, 5'5", loves cinema, theatre, national trust, walks, would like to meet a tall, non-smoking gent, under 70 with a GSOH. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 167808 or send a text to 80360

**DOG LOVER?** Kind, caring, 61 year old Oxford female, widow, dog lover, enjoy playing bowls, theatre, holidays, sports and country walks. Would like to meet a like-minded man for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 130132

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**JUST WANT TO BE HAPPY** Friendly, bubbly, caring female, 56, with a great sense of humour. Looking for a genuine, nice, romantic, caring guy, 55-58, with a GSOH, slim build, brunette, glasses, N/S, enjoys darts, car boot sales, bingo, gardening and more, seeking that special man, to settle down with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 156609 or send a text to 80360

**SOMETHING LASTING** Perceptive, polite and romantic Bampton female, 57, works part-time, enjoys socialising, meeting new people, country walks, holidays, seeking placid special man, to share the future with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100300

**ASK ME OUT!** Caring, fit, 52 year old Chipping Norton female, 57, slim build, blue eyes, enjoys swimming, dog walking, WLTM a caring, loving male for hopefully a relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 167144 or send a text to 80360

**SHALL WE DANCE?** Blonde, blue-eyed Swindon girl, 57, friendly nature, well-travelled and loyal, lover of life, searching for an active, educated man, who appreciates food, wine and life in general. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 110895

**EASY TO GET ON WITH** Caring, loving, 52 year old Oxford female, 5'7", slim, brown hair, blue eyes, enjoys swimming, dog walking, GSOH, enjoys for a really caring guy, to build a relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 165506 or send a text to 80360

**RECIPE FOR LOVE** Kind, caring Oxford lady, 58, active, caring GSOH, enjoys rock concerts, seaside, animals and driving, searching for a warm, loving and maybe more, gent, for company, sharing and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 130132

**DOG LOVER?** Kind, caring, 61 year old Oxford female, widow, dog lover, enjoy playing bowls, theatre, holidays, sports and country walks. Would like to meet a like-minded man for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 167808 or send a text to 80360

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**ACCEPT EACH OTHER** Easygoing Wantage male, 52, own car, works full-time, likes most sports, would like to meet an outgoing female, for good times leading to more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 135164 or send a text to 80360

**DECISION IS YOURS** Honest, easygoing Yorkshire man living in Banbury, 60, 5'6", slim build, self-employed, likes gardening, cooking, cinema, travel, countryside, seeks genuine lady, to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100937

**SOUL TO SOUL** Fun, talkative and friendly Oxford guy, 79, likes social drinks from time to time, just hoping to meet a bubbly, confident lady, to build a loving, lasting relationship with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100937

**KEEPING WITH THE TIMES** Happy man living in Banbury, 60, 5'6", slim build, likes gardening, cooking, cinema, meals, and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115894

**PASSION FLOWER** Youthful, friendly Oxford man living in Banbury, 60, 5'9", dark hair, enjoys cinema, bowling, active days out and socialising, searching for a loving, happy and loyal woman. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 147448

**SAIL AWAY** Sociable, bubbly and happy Bicester female, 42, seeking a chatty, optimistic female, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 147448

**HOPES THIS WORKS** Cuddly Swindon lady, 48, easygoing and fun to be, looking for friendship leading to more with a nice, friendly, bubbly woman. Where are you? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 851817

**MADE FOR EACH OTHER** Happy go lucky Abingdon-on-Thames male, 47, 5'9", medium build, strong-willed, likes walks, cycling, social drink, quiet pubs, seeking a nice guy, for friendship and hopefully more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 166651

**MAKING CONNECTIONS** Interesting, friendly Oxford male, 65, varied interests, loves walks, reading, travel and more, sees sensitive male, similar age, for a loving relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 158762

**THAT'S ALL FOR NOW...** Easygoing friend Didcot male, 67, enjoys walks, home and car, with a love of cinema, travel and new adventure, seeks a nice, loyal, feminine lady, for companionship then who knows? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132140

**SOCIAL TIMES** Caring, sociable Oxfordshire male, 67 Abingdon-on-Thames male. I am semi-retired, presentable, friendly, looking for similar male, to settle down with and share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104901

**LET'S EXPLORE** Abingdon male, 70, 5'9", medium build, easygoing and affectionate, looking for someone similar, to share fun and good times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 453567

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**SOUL TO SOUL** Fun, talkative and friendly Oxford guy, 79, likes social drinks from time to time, just hoping to meet a bubbly, confident lady, to build a loving, lasting relationship with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100937

**WOMAN SEEKING WOMAN**

**SAIL AWAY** Sociable, bubbly and happy Bicester female, 42, seeking a chatty, optimistic female, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 147448

# All-action launch to a sci-fi fantasy trilogy

**DIIVERGENT** (12A, 139 mins) Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Action/Adventure/Romance. Shailene Woodley, Theo James, Zoe Kravitz, Christian Madsen, Ben Lloyd-Hughes, Miles Teller, Tony Goldwyn, Ashley Judd, Ansel Elgort, Maggie Q, Ray Stevenson. Director: Neil Burger.

**A**dapted from the opening book of Veronica Roth's best-selling trilogy for young adults, *Divergent* is a rites of passage story baked to a similar recipe as *The Hunger Games*.

Neil Burger's film separates a gung-ho heroine from the people she loves and compels her to undergo a series of gruelling challenges, killing fellow teenagers to ensure her survival.

Spookily, the running time of the two films is almost identical, although this dystopian fantasy earns its 12A certificate without spilling as much innocent blood.

Shailene Woodley, who was deservedly nominated for a Golden Globe opposite George Clooney in *The Descendants*, is perfectly cast as the teenage protagonist, who leads the rebellion against a corrupt system. She is the beating heart of the slickly engineered film and effortlessly tugs heartstrings in pivotal scenes of loss.

A slow-burning romantic subplot ensures the target audience will swoon as the heroine suffers exquisite pangs of first love, while a tub-thumping denouement sets the scene for the next two instalments, *Insurgent* and *Allegiant*, released in 2015 and 2016 respectively.

Futuristic Chicago is divided into five factions – Abnegation, Amity,

Candor, Dauntless and Erudite – which exemplify positive aspects of the human personality: selflessness, cordiality, honesty, intelligence and courage.

On a specific day each year, sixteen-year-olds undergo an aptitude test that reveals their destiny.

Beatrice Prior (Shailene Woodley) is poised to take that test.

She lives in Abnegation with her brother Caleb (Ansel Elgort) and parents Andrew (Tony Goldwyn) and Natalie (Ashley Judd) but questions where her future lies.

"Everyone knows where they belong, except for me..." she laments in voiceover.

The results of Beatrice's test are inconclusive and Tori (Maggie Q), who administers the procedure behind closed doors, tells the 16-year-old that she is a Divergent.

Beatrice must hide her status because Divergents threaten the finely balanced system and are being hunted by Jeanine Matthews (Kate Winslet), strident leader of Erudite.

When the time comes to choose her destiny, Beatrice opts for Dauntless and begins rigorous training under hunky instructor Four (Theo James).

Fellow newcomer Peter (Miles Teller) takes an immediate dislike to Beatrice and attempts to bully her out of Dauntless.

However, she is resilient and draws encouragement from three new friends, Christina (Zoe Kravitz), Al (Christian Madsen) and Will (Ben Lloyd-Hughes).

*Divergent* feels a smidgen light



on exposition and character development but Woodley is terrific and she catalyses smouldering on-screen chemistry with James.

Winslet sinks her pearly whites into her first villainous role, and director Burger obscures the actress's baby bump – she was five months pregnant during filming – with an array of laptops and folders that become a running joke by the end credits.

Dutch music producer Junkie XL is an inspired choice to compose the soundtrack and provides the film a strong, electronic pulse that perfectly fits the futuristic setting.

A scene from *Divergent*, with Kate Winslet playing Jeanine

Picture: PA Photo/Entertainment One

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Premier Division							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
H Hempstead	40	3	5	5	120	32	95
Chesham Utd	39	28	4	7	97	42	88
St Albans Cy	40	23	9	8	83	47	78
Stourbridge	40	23	5	12	104	53	74
Cambridge C	39	22	7	10	80	48	73
Hungerford	37	21	5	11	70	36	68
•Poole Tn	37	20	10	7	69	42	67
Bideford	40	18	12	10	71	53	66
Corby Tn	39	17	6	16	59	59	57
Weymouth	38	17	5	14	56	44	56
Frome Tn	40	15	7	18	57	69	52
Hitchin Tn	37	14	9	14	56	44	51
Arlesley Tn	40	14	9	17	61	69	51
Redditch Utd	39	16	3	20	55	79	51
Biggleswade	37	11	16	10	61	49	49
St Neots Tn	40	13	8	19	67	71	41
Truro City	39	11	9	19	56	79	42
Burnham	40	11	8	21	55	80	41
Chippingham	39	12	5	22	51	79	41
<b>Banbury Utd</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>41</b>
AFC Totton	40	9	6	25	54	110	33
Bideford Tn	40	6	5	29	45	109	23
Bashley	38	4	3	30	31	103	16

\*3 pts deducted  
● Hinckley Tn record expunged

BANBURY United are looking anxiously over their shoulders after suffering their 11th loss in 12 Calor League Premier Division games on Saturday.

This defeat against already-relegated Bedford and a victory for struggling AFC Totton, means the Puritans are only eight points clear of the drop zone.

Further bad news for Banbury is that former skipper Wayne Blossom has been released after the club were forced to make financial cutbacks.

This game saw the return to the side of midfielder Anderson Pinto after his planned stint in US football fell through, while there was first start for young midfielder Carl Tappin.

Banbury defended well under pressure in a goalless first half, but showed little going

**Bedford Town** 2

(Rawlings 50, Osei-Addo 71)

**Banbury United** 0

forward. Bedford took the lead five minutes after the break when Tom Rawlings lofted the ball over keeper Scott Dutton from ten yards.

Banbury initially tried to respond, but they went further behind in the 71st minute.

Kelvin Osei-Addo was given time on the edge of the penalty area to turn and then shoot powerfully into the bottom corner of the net.

**Banbury United:** Dutton, Cray, Fathers, Isaac (Strafford 75), Collins, Fishwick, Dias, Obeng, Skendi, Pinto (Bevis 80), Tappin (Green 67).

Attendance: 216.

Anderson Pinto – back in the team



## STARS with Claire Petulengro

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### ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

This is a great week for travel. You'll have a natural attraction towards people who can benefit your life and so, for once, you can afford to trust your instincts. Open letters and emails as soon as you receive them. Your chart shows things need to be dealt with swiftly this week, not left to chance. Dipping your toes into education also becomes an option. Ring me so I can tell you about your future.

**0906 585 4360**

### TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

Emotions are getting in the way of you getting the facts out. You're so much happier and more content with your life and that's because you have learnt how to say no. However, with such an emotive line up you may want to remember how high your standards are, before you end up agreeing to something which can shatter your confidence. Ring me so I can give you the backup you need.

**0906 585 4361**

### GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

Relationships are highlighted this month and you are going to find it hard not to wear your heart on your sleeve. I like this honest side of you; it makes a change from the game playing which your sign is usually known for. Stick to arrangements this week. Someone has gone out of their way to do something for you. Give me a call so I can show you why this is such a special week.

**0906 585 4362**

### CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

It's a really good time to lay foundations and establish new ideas. When you talk, others will listen so use this power to your full advantage. You've lost trust and faith in a family member. Ensure you arrange some one on one time to talk things through with them before Thursday please. Cancer, Mars helps you shuffle finances and travel. Ring now to hear how you're blessed this week.

**0906 585 4363**

### LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

It's the creative areas of your life which attract you most. You're in the mood to aim high and achieve more with your life and others will be attracted to the power you're giving out. Monetary issues prove difficult to deal with and you may have to tell a white lie in order to buy yourself some time in a deal of some sort. Give me a call to hear where I see you going with your career.

**0906 585 4364**

### VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

You need to start to pull down the walls you put up at the end of last year. Your element of earth is pushing you to ask for commitments you may not be ready for. Slow your pace and accept that others are willing to take things slowly if you are. You give more than you need to and it's important the life you live is one you can enjoy. Ring now for an important message from Mars.

**0906 585 4365**

### LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

An air of vulnerability makes it tempting for others to take advantage of you. Don't be pushed before you're ready, but take your time this week. There is no reason for you to be emotionally manipulated. Working out who gives something back to your life helps you to feel better about yourself and enables you to separate fake friends from the real ones. Call now so we can talk more.

**0906 585 4366**

### SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

Shocking news in your circle gives you reason to question other's commitment to you. Just make sure you want what you're asking for or you could end up in a suffocating situation of your own making. Sales and purchases go in your favour now. Don't be afraid to ask for deals your way. You hold the power of persuasion. Ring now to hear how Saturn is looking after your future.

**0906 585 4367**

### SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21

It's time to assert your right to have the life you want and not to live your days as others deem fit. After all Sagittarius is the one in the driving seat, right? Paperwork and documents you need to sign can help you feel secure about where you stand with others. Don't allow your element of fire to ruin a friendship which you've had for years. Ring now, I have a lover prediction for you.

**0906 585 4368**

### CAPRICORN

Dec 22-Jan 19

There is a lot going on in your career this month, but your personal life is also demanding your attention too. You're walking a fine line and the key to success for you is to ensure you are dealing with what is before you at the time. Some of you Capricorns will be getting a proposal of sorts and your reply could and will change everything. Phone me to right that wrong in the family.

**0906 585 4369**

### AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

The planet Mercury allows you to complete projects which you could not get your head around last week. You finally have structure and sense to your life and you're not afraid to ask for what you want from others. Venus makes you the centre of attention and if you're a single Aquarian you'll be having the pick of the bunch. Phone me to hear who you need to avoid in business this month.

**0906 585 4370**

### PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

It's going to be all too easy for you to let go and trust and although this is a good thing it can also leave you open to criticism from friends and family. Try to keep your personal life personal or you will lose control of what should be a really special week for you. A great week to go for job offers or enter into business negotiations. Ring now to get the most from this intriguing week.

**0906 585 4371**

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Jane Wolfson, joint head of investment, London, Initiative, said: "These findings illustrate why it is so important for national advertisers like Tesco to appear in local media. The high levels of trust placed in local newspapers translates into real action at key stages of the path to purchase, and local newspapers are active in their communities, campaigning on issues that matter to their readers."

- Local media refers to local newspapers and their websites.
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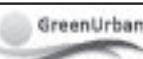
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# CakeMotoring

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# Stylish MG hatch is great for grins

By David Duffy

If there is one quality that the MG badge has always personified it is fun. And, if nothing else, the latest model to wear the famous octagonal badge is designed to raise a grin.

The first bit of good news is the price, as even the top model in the four-car MG3 supermini line-up costs less than £10,000, with its low insurance rating of Group 4E particularly good news for young drivers.

And it is those younger, and young-at-heart, drivers who are the prime target for this well-equipped, sporty-styled car.

This MG is the latest product from the deal which saw Rover bought out of receivership and production moved to China.

The current owner, SAIC, has invested massively in its Longbridge base, which is responsible for engineering, research, design and development programmes of all new MG cars, which undergo final assembly at Longbridge.

The top-of-the-range MG3 has taken solid Rover supermini underpinnings and cloaked a surprisingly spacious cabin with a body-styling kit, made up of a black mesh grille, black A-pillars, rear boot spoiler and side sill extensions.

All models also have front LED daytime running lights and electron-

ic hill hold as standard and owners keen on personalisation can choose from a wide range of colours, exterior graphics, interior colour packs and part-leather upholstery.

The range-topping model has had plenty of upmarket features fitted, from cruise control and automatic lights and windscreen wipers, to a DAB audio system and rear parking sensors.

And safety equipment is right up to 21st-century standards, with six airbags, electronic stability control, corner brake control and traction control.

On the move, the car's zippy 106 horsepower, 1.5-litre petrol engine, linked to a five-speed gearbox, makes for nippy performance, while the chassis ensures sure-footed handling and a lively ride.

The chunky tyres fitted to the 16-inch alloy wheels draw in road noise

## Auto facts

**Model:** MG3 3Style

**Price:** £9,999

**Insurance group:** 4 (1-50)

**Fuel consumption (Combined):**  
48.7mpg

**Top speed:** 108mph

**Length:** 401.8cm/158.2in

**Width:** 172.9cm/68in

**Luggage capacity:** 10 cu ft

**Fuel tank capacity:** 9.9 gallons/

45 litres

**CO2 emissions:** 136g/km

**Warranty:** 3 years/60,000 miles



**ZIPPY LOOKS:** The top-level model comes complete with a full body-styling kit

at higher speeds and the suspension picks up imperfections in the road, but the ride is far from uncomfortable.

The MG3 is a fun addition to the small hatchback market which is challenging territory for carmakers, thanks to the number of models, constantly improving quality and the huge number of sales.

But if MG Motor can gain sales in the sector there is a real opportunity for success.

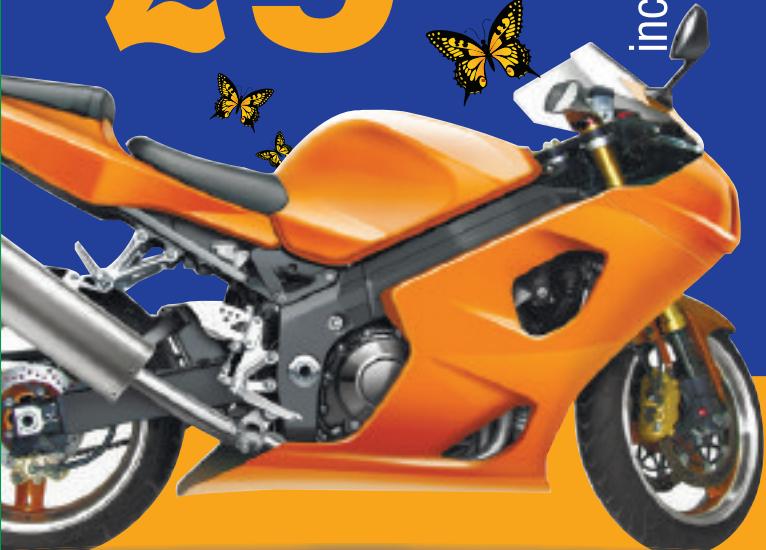
So, sad as it might be that MG Motor UK is owned by China's largest car company, the octagonal badge continues to put a smile on faces worldwide.

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## Motorrepairsurvey

### Millions of damaged cars using UK roads

MORE than four in 10 UK motorists admit they are getting behind the wheel of vehicles that are damaged, according to new research from Kwik Fit.

From chipped windscreens to balding tyres, more than 16 million cars on UK roads with potentially dangerous faults or damages.

Damaged bodywork is the most common vehicle issue, as cited by over half (56%) of all motorists who admitted to driving damaged cars. Cracked or chipped windscreens (14%), bald tyres (9%), damaged

wipers (9%) and illuminated dashboard warning lights (9%) were also commonly cited in the study.

Lack of money is the main reason motorists give for having failed to rectify these issues, while 13% say they do not have the time to get their vehicle fixed. One in 10 drivers say they simply "can't be bothered", while 6% are waiting until their next MoT or service to get the problem professionally fixed.

Roger Griggs, director of communications at Kwik Fit, said: "Many of these problems may sound minor, but issues

such as chipped windscreens or bald tyres have the potential to be very dangerous.

In many cases, motorists are putting off vehicle repairs to save time and money, but in the long run, this can be a lot more costly and time-consuming if these faults get worse.

Whether it's damaged bodywork or a flashing warning light, our advice to motorists is to get these things checked out, as there may well be more to the problem than meets the eye and it certainly won't get any better by itself."

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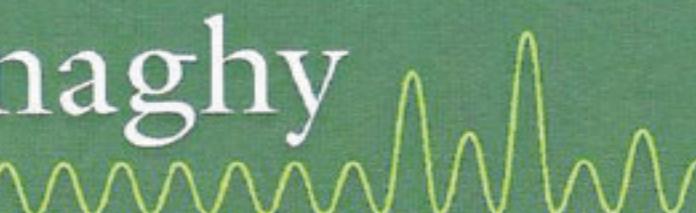
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